

By: Senator(s) Mettetal, Thames, Kirby,
 Albritton, Browning, Burton, Butler,
 Carmichael, Chaney, Davis, Dawkins, Dearing,
 Fillingane, Frazier, Gollott, Gordon, Jackson
 (15th), Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd),
 Jordan, King, Lee (35th), Little, Michel,
 Moffatt, Morgan, Pickering, Posey, Ross,
 Thomas, Tollison, White, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND
 2 APPRECIATION OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO DR. ALBERT RANDEL
 3 HENDRIX FOR HIS LEGACY, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE
 4 FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL DISABILITIES, ON THE OCCASION OF
 5 HIS RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, Albert Randel Hendrix, Ph.D., currently serves as
 7 Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health,
 8 a position he has held since 1986, making him the longest serving
 9 Executive Director of Mental Health Services in the United States
 10 of America, and he has served as Executive Director of the
 11 Mississippi Arts Fair for the Handicapped since 1980; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Albert Randel Hendrix, a native of Batesville,
 13 Mississippi, is the son of Howard Roy Hendrix, Sr., and Marjorie
 14 Oliphant Hendrix. In 1973 he married the former Sandra June
 15 Reynolds of Jones County, and they had four children, Jo Ellen,
 16 Sarah Elizabeth, Albert Randel, Jr., and Sandra Louise. They have
 17 three grandchildren, Grace, Jessica and Jeffrey; and

18 WHEREAS, he graduated from South Panola High School in 1964,
 19 Northwest Mississippi Junior College in 1966, earned a Bachelor's
 20 Degree in 1968 and a Master's Degree in 1971 from the University
 21 of Mississippi, and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University
 22 of Southern Mississippi in 1979. As a young boy, Randy started
 23 his first business shining shoes in Batesville, Mississippi, and
 24 one of his best customers was future Governor Cliff Finch; and

25 WHEREAS, he served with distinction in the 1st/84 Artillery
 26 and 2nd/4th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division, United States Army,
 27 in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1970, earning the Vietnam Service
 28 Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Palm, the Civil Action

29 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Gallantry
30 Cross with Palm, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal; and

31 WHEREAS, he completed management programs to earn
32 certifications in Nursing Home Administration, Certified Public
33 Management, and Supervisory Management, and he completed the
34 Mississippi Executive Development Institute at Mississippi State
35 University, and the Top State Managers Executive Education Program
36 at Duke University. He is licensed as a Clinical Mental Health
37 Therapist, a Clinical Mental Retardation Therapist, a Mental
38 Health/Mental Retardation Program Administrator, and as an AAAA
39 Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed, the Mentally Retarded, the
40 Learning Disabled, and the Physically Handicapped. He served as
41 Coordinator of Grants and Developmental Training at Ellisville
42 State School from 1970 to 1974, and with the encouragement of Dr.
43 Robert Mann and the mentorship of Dr. Paul Cotten, he became
44 Director of North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford,
45 Mississippi, from 1975 to 1986. He has taught Health Care
46 Administration at the University of Mississippi Pharmacy School,
47 Special Education at the University of Mississippi School of
48 Education and the University of Southern Mississippi; and Human
49 Services at Itawamba Community College and Adult Education at
50 Jones Junior College; and

51 WHEREAS, he has served on many boards and commissions by
52 state statute, including the Disability Resource Commission, the
53 Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth, the Early
54 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council, the
55 Mississippi Council on Obesity, the Mississippi Industries for the
56 Blind and the State Board of Rehabilitation Services, where he is
57 Chairman, and the longest serving member; and

58 WHEREAS, he has been appointed by several Mississippi
59 Governors to serve on many boards and commissions, including the
60 Governor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, the
61 Governor's Task Force on County Jails, the Task Force on Health,

62 the Mississippi Kids Count Policy Panel, the Cooperative
63 Employment Task Force, the Statewide Community Development
64 Coalition Project, the Substance Abuse Policy Council, the Welfare
65 Reform Interagency Council, the Commission for Children and Youth,
66 the Executive Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the
67 Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and the Council on
68 Aging, and many other university and state agency committees; and

69 WHEREAS, Dr. Hendrix's honors and awards are almost too
70 numerous to mention: the Paul D. Cotten Leadership Award, the
71 James C. Stubbs Volunteer Service Award, the newly established
72 Albert Randel Hendrix Leadership Award at the annual conference of
73 the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Council held in November 2006
74 in Tunica, Award for Appreciation of Unselfish Support of the
75 Foster Grandparent Program from the Foster Grandparent Program of
76 the Capital Area, Award for Establishing Mississippi's First
77 Foster Grandparent Program from the Corporation for National and
78 Community Service, Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field
79 of Mental Health from the Mississippi Chapter of the National
80 Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Outstanding Service Award on
81 Behalf of Mental Health at the Social Workers Education
82 Conference, the Richard B. Dillard Award for Outstanding
83 Leadership from the Southeastern Region of the American
84 Association on Mental Retardation, the First Annual Albert Randel
85 Hendrix Award of Excellence for Service and Commitment from the
86 Mental Health Association of the Capital Area, the Larry D. Scott
87 Award for Outstanding Agency Leadership from the Southeastern
88 Region of the American Association on Mental Retardation, the
89 Embracing Mississippi System of Care Award from the Mississippi
90 Families as Allies for Children's Mental Health, the Award for
91 Outstanding Contribution to Mental Health Services from the North
92 Mississippi Mental Health Consumer's Conference, the Distinguished
93 Legislative Achievement Award from the Mississippi Psychological
94 Association, Honorary Membership in the Mississippi Society of

95 Certified Public Administrators, the Distinguished Service Award
96 of the Mississippi Association of Personnel Administrators, the
97 Bradley Sanders Leadership Award from the Mississippi Chapter of
98 the Association of Behavioral Healthcare Administration (twice),
99 the John C. Stennis Award for Excellence in Government from
100 Governor Kirk Fordice, Service Award from the National Council on
101 Disabilities, the State Administrator of the Year Award from the
102 Mississippi Chapter of the American Society of Public
103 Administrators, the Alumnus of the Year Award from the University
104 of Mississippi School of Education, the Alumnus of the Year Award
105 from Northwest Mississippi Community College, and many other
106 awards for distinguished service. He was initiated into the
107 scholastic organizations of Phi Theta Kappa of Phi Kappa Phi and
108 the professional honorary organization of Phi Delta Kappa and Phi
109 Alpha Alpha; and

110 WHEREAS, Dr. Hendrix's family and his animals are most
111 important to him. He currently has nine dogs, Sam, Sugar,
112 Sweetie, Duce, Fred, Bandit, Buddy, Robin and Pippi; and about a
113 dozen or so sugar gliders, two canaries, three cats and many
114 goldfish; and

115 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize Dr. Albert
116 Randel Hendrix for his decades of dedicated and stellar service in
117 the field of mental health, creating, administrating, and funding
118 innovative programs which are providing life-changing advancements
119 and much-needed hope to persons with disabilities and their
120 families; for his invaluable assistance and cooperation with the
121 Legislature in developing complex legislation; for his honorable
122 and distinguished service in the Vietnam War; for his devotion to
123 his family, his church and his community; his entire life, from
124 boyhood to the present has exemplified the ideals of honor,
125 service and courage:

126 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
127 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

128 we do hereby commend and express the gratitude and appreciation of
129 the State of Mississippi to Dr. Albert Randel Hendrix for his
130 legacy, contributions and selfless service to the field of mental
131 health and to persons in Mississippi with mental disabilities, on
132 the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of dedicated service
133 as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental
134 Health, and express to him and his family our best wishes for
135 future success.

136 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
137 Dr. Hendrix and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.